(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य रेलवे और पश्चिमी रेलवे ने पिछले कई वर्षों से बम्बई नगरपालिका को करोड़ों रुपयों का भुगतान नहीं किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) बम्बई नगरपालिका को यह राशि कब तक अदा कर दी जाएगी ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Railway accident occured at Hissar on 28th September, 1992

1497. SHRI RAMJI LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer of Unstarred Question 381 given in Rajya Sabha on 25th November, 1992 and state :

(a) whether any inquiry has been ordered by Government into the accident, occurred to Train No. 4 HSP at Hissar on 28th September, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the required compensation has not been provided to the victims so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be paid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The accident was inquired by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle. According to his findings, the accident occurred due to the gate of level crossing being kept open by the Gateman at the time of passage of passenger train. In this accident, 7 persons lost their lives and 4 sustained injuries. The Gateman has been found responsible for this lapse.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No claim application has been preferred by next of the kin of the victims so far. Compensation will be paid in due course as soon as award is given by the Railway Claims Tribunal on considering the merits of the cases filed.

Passenger train on Sadalpur-Hissar Section

1498. SHRI RAMJI LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the passenger trains on Sadalpur Hissar Section of Northern Railway always run behind their scheduled time;

(b) if so, the number of times these trains have derailed/met with accidents since January, 1992, and the persons died as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the accident occurred on 28th September, 1992 to train Route No. 4 HSP at Hissar is the most severe accident; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of compensation paid to the kith and kins of the victims ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The punctuality of passanger trains on Sadulpur-Hissar section during September '92 and October '92 has been averaging 81% mainly on account of equipment failures in steam locomotives.

(b) to (d) There has been only 1 train accident on Sadulpur-Hissar section since January, 1992. This occurred on 28-9-92 at Level Crossing Gate No. 6 at Hissar. 7 persons were killed and 4 injured in this accident. All of them were road users.

The Gateman has been found responsible for this accident as he failed to close the gate of the crossing.

As the claims for compensation have not yet been filed by the next of the kins of the victims in the Railway Claims Tribunal, no compensation has been paid so far.

Constructing of railway line from Panskura Santragachi Panskura

1499. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for constructing fourth line from Santragachi to Panskura and the third line from Panskura to Kharagpur;

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these lines are essential particularly in the context of the commissioning of two more units at the Kolaghat Power Plant and for smooth running passenger trains; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) A survey has just been carried out for construction of additional Railway lines from Santragachi to Kharagpur. Survey report is under examination. Further decision would depend on results of survey and availability of resources in the coming years. No specific proposal has been received or is under consideration regarding Kolaghat Power Plant. Passenger trains are however running smoothly.

Double line to Bandel Thermal Power Station, West Bengal

1500. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bandel Thermal Power Station, West Bengal is provided with a single line for coal wagon movement;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider constructing double line for smooth movement of coal wagon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Track network of Eastern and South Eastern Railways

1501. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to consider expanding of the track network of the Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway to facilitate the movement of coal wagons to the Kolaghat Power Plant and two other major power projects in the Offing at Bakreswar and Balagarh in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi narrow Gauge into Broad Gauge

1502. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi narrow gauge into broad gauge has been included in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, by when the above conversion work is likely to be taken up and approximate period by which the work would be completed; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof and the amount sanctioned for this purpose as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) The section Latur-Kurduwadi has been included in Phase I of the action plan to convert MG/NG lines to BG. This phase will cover the VIII & IX plan periods. The work will be taken up in the coming years during this period subject to availability of resources. Estimated amount will be worked out at the time of taking up the work.

Upgrading and Promotional opportunities for Wireless Operators

1503. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a long-pending demand has been lying with Railways regarding upgradation and promotional opportunities for the Wireless Operators in the Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the agreement entered into with the Wireless Operators in 1984 has not been implemented so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?